(b) an inner support liner extending between said first and second end caps.

34. A filter assembly according to claim 27 wherein:

- (a) said annular sealing region is cylindrical;
- (b) first end cap annular sealing region is cylindrical; and
- (c) said filter element is cylindrical

## **REMARKS**

This application is a Rule 53(b) continuation of application 08/884,205. Claims 15-34 are pending.

Applicants have submitted herewith an Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is asked to consider the Information Disclosure Statement with respect to the claims pending herein. Applicants have submitted their previous patents for any consideration of double patenting, obviousness—type double patenting, or issues under § 102(e).

Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Merchant, Gould, Smith, Edell, Welter & Schmidt, P.A. 3100 Norwest Center 90 South Seventh Street Minneapolis, MN 55402 612/332-5300

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Julie R. Daulton Reg. No. 36,414 JRD:PSTslc